

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 5, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. May 5, 1908. My darling Alec:

I feel so guilty in not writing you oftener when I have such splendid letters from you. I do love you with all my heart and wish I could be with you now, but I am really afraid to go. I don't think I would be enough comfort to you to pay.

But please do come back here rather than go to Baddeck. I feel as if I couldn't have you away from me much longer and I dread you going so far away as Baddeck without me. Please come back.

I realize how you feel about the boys' flying machine. But after all people have succeeded in riding bicycles and why is it really less dangerous for unskilled performers than a flying machine that only goes ten or twenty feet in the air? It seems to me a very different proposition than going up in a balloon thousands of feet above ground.

Why not invite the boys to take turns in making you a visit at the hotel. I don't like to have you there all alone. I am sure that they would be only too delighted to come, the only trouble would be that they could not afford the extra expense.

It is very cold here, damp and chilly. We haven't had a warm day since you left. Daisy and David and the baby are staying with me here, but I think I will go to Twin Oaks tomorrow.

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I was going to send you some more union suits by Mr. Booth, but found they had a larger size which however could not be delivered for some days.

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I am so sorry you have no fire in your room. Why won't you go to Mr. Curtiss'? I am sure they would be so pleased and we could make it up in some way. I had such a nice letter from Mr. Curtiss this morning. He has been most kind and attentive to me all winter. I wish you would tell him how much I appreciate it.

I don't seem to have anything to say. I wish you would sign that voucher and not make any more fuss about it. Of course your point is all right, but if it is customary I don't see why you can't sign it now since the War Department O.K's it. It seems as if the Lieutenant might be the gainer by our hospitality and not the gov't. The Lieutenant receives this light and heat as part of his pay and allowances, if you choose to board him and save him this amount of money, why shouldn't he get the benefit of it. We weren't spending money for the gov't., but for our friend, Lieut. Selfridge. I would certainly prefer he got the benefit of our hospitality and not the gov't.

Your loving Mabel.